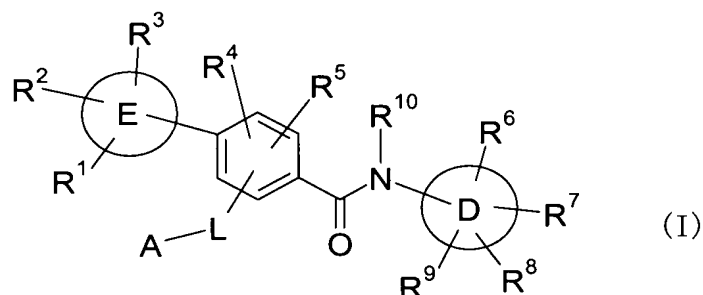


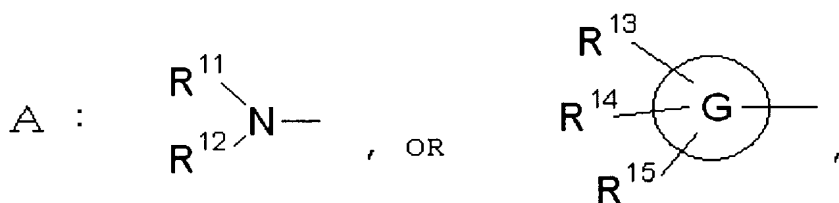
# IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A benzamide derivative represented by ~~the following~~  
~~general~~ formula (I):



wherein the symbols have the following meanings:



L: a lower alkylene[[],];

D ring and E ring: the same or different, a monocyclic or bicyclic hydrocarbon ring, or a 5- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heteroaromatic ring ~~containing~~ comprising 1 to 4 atoms ~~of one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O[[],];

G ring: a 4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle ~~containing~~ comprising 1 to 4 atoms ~~of one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O[[],];

R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>9</sup>: the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl, a halogen-substituted lower alkyl, -OH, -SH, -O-lower alkyl, -O-lower alkyl-NH-lower alkyl, -O-lower alkyl-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, =O, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH-lower alkyl, -N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -S-lower alkyl, -SO-lower alkyl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, -CN, -COOH, -C(=O)-O-lower alkyl, -C(=O)-NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)-NH-lower alkyl, -C(=O)-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -NH-C(=O)-O-lower alkyl, -NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, -

SO<sub>2</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub>, -SO<sub>2</sub>-NH-lower alkyl, -C(=O)-lower alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub> or a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocycle[[],];

R<sup>10</sup>: a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl[[],];

R<sup>11</sup> to R<sup>15</sup>: the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl, a halogen-substituted lower alkyl, -OH, -O-lower alkyl, -S-lower alkyl, -SO-lower alkyl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, =O, -C(=O)H, -C(=O)-lower alkyl, -COOH, -CN, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH-lower alkyl, -N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)-NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)-NH-lower alkyl, -C(=O)-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)-aryl, -C(=O)-NH-aryl, -NH-C(=O)-lower alkyl, -NH-C(=O)-aryl, -NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, -N(lower alkyl)-SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-aryl, -C(=O)-O-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-OH, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-NH-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-NH<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-OH, -lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-S-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-O-C(=O)-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-aryl, a cycloalkyl, an aryl,

- (4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle ~~containing~~ comprising 1 to 4 atoms of ~~one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O),

- O-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle ~~containing~~ comprising 1 to 4 atoms of ~~one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O),

- lower alkylene-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle ~~containing~~ comprising 1 to 4 atoms of ~~one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O),

-C(=O)-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle ~~containing~~  
comprising 1 to 4 atoms ~~of one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group  
consisting of N, S, and O),

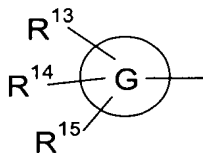
-lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic  
heterocycle ~~containing~~ comprising 1 to 4 atoms ~~of one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected  
from the group consisting of N, S, and O), or

-C(=O)-NH-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle ~~containing~~  
comprising 1 to 4 atoms ~~of one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group  
consisting of N, S, and O),

and the above monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle may be substituted by halogen  
atom(s), lower alkyl(s), -O-lower alkyl, or -OH[[,]];  
or a salt thereof.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the  
~~ring represented by E~~ ring in ~~the above~~ formula (I) is a benzene or thiophene ring.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 2, wherein the  
~~group represented by A~~ ring in ~~the above~~ formula (I) is the following formula:



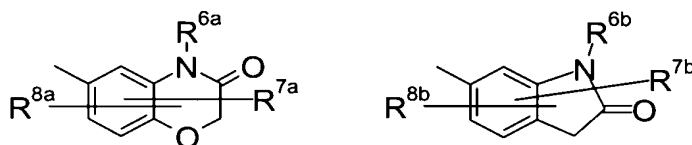
wherein the G ring and R<sup>13</sup> to R<sup>15</sup> have the same meanings as in ~~the above~~ formula (I).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 3, wherein the ~~ring represented by G ring in the above formula (I)~~ is a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocycle ~~and the~~ wherein a ring nitrogen atom is bonded to L.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 4 [[3]], wherein the ~~ring represented by G ring in the above formula (I)~~ is a ring selected from the group consisting of morpholine, piperidine, [[or]] and pyrrolidine, wherein a ~~and the~~ ring nitrogen atom of the ring group is bonded to L.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 3, wherein the ~~ring represented by D ring in the above formula (I)~~ is a ring selected from the group consisting of benzothiazole, quinoline, isoquinoline, indoline, tetrahydroquinoline, tetrahydroisoquinoline, 3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxazine, dihydroquinoline, and dihydroisoquinoline.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 3, wherein the ~~ring represented by D ring, in the above formula (I)~~ together with the groups represented by  $R^6$  to  $R^9$  to be bonded thereto, form a group ~~selected from~~ represented by the following formulae:

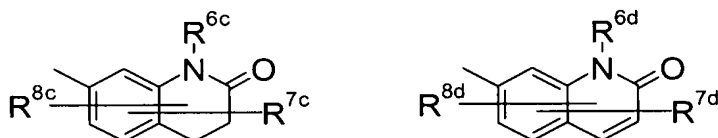


wherein the symbols have the following meanings:

$R^{6a}$  and  $R^{6b}$ : the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl, or a halogen-substituted lower alkyl, and

$R^{7a}$ ,  $R^{8a}$ ,  $R^{7b}$ , and  $R^{8b}$ : the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl, or a halogen-substituted lower alkyl.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 3, wherein the ~~ring represented by D ring, in the above formula (I)~~ together with the groups represented by  $R^6$  to  $R^9$  to be bonded thereto, form a group ~~selected from~~ represented by the following formulae:

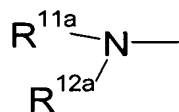


wherein the symbols have the following meanings:

$R^{6c}$  and  $R^{6d}$ : the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl, or a halogen-substituted lower alkyl, and

$R^{7c}$ ,  $R^{8c}$ ,  $R^{7d}$ , and  $R^{8d}$ : the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl, or a halogen-substituted lower alkyl.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 2, wherein the ~~group represented by A ring in the above formula (I) is the following formula represented by:~~



wherein the symbols have the following meanings:

R<sup>11a</sup> and R<sup>12a</sup>: the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl, a halogen-substituted lower alkyl, -O-lower alkyl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, -C(=O)H, -C(=O)-lower alkyl, -CN, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH-lower alkyl, -N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)-NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)-NH-lower alkyl, -C(=O)-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)-aryl, -C(=O)-NH-aryl, -NH-C(=O)-lower alkyl, -NH-C(=O)-aryl, -NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, -N(lower alkyl)-SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-aryl, -C(=O)-O-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-OH, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-NH-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-NH<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-OH, -lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-S-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-O-C(=O)-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-aryl, a cycloalkyl, an aryl,

-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle ~~containing~~ comprising 1 to 4 atoms ~~of one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O),

-O-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle ~~containing~~ comprising 1 to 4 atoms ~~of one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O),

-lower alkylene-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle ~~containing~~ comprising 1 to 4 atoms ~~of one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O),

-C(=O)-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle ~~containing~~ comprising 1 to 4 atoms ~~of one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O),

-lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle ~~containing~~ comprising 1 to 4 atoms ~~of one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O), or

-C(=O)-NH-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle ~~containing~~ comprising 1 to 4 atoms ~~of one or more kinds of heteroatoms~~ selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O), and

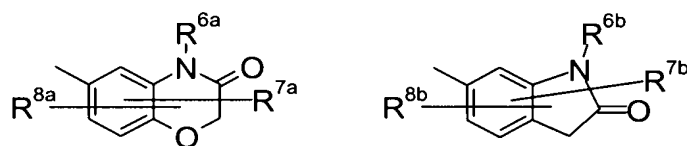
the above monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle may be substituted by a halogen atom, a lower alkyl, -O-lower alkyl, or -OH.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 9, wherein R<sup>11a</sup> is a lower alkyl and R<sup>12a</sup> is a group selected from the group consisting of -lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-S-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-OH, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-NH-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-aryl, a cycloalkyl, an aryl, -(monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle), and -lower alkylene-(monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 9, wherein the ~~ring represented by D ring in the above formula (I)~~ is a ring selected from the group consisting of benzothiazole, quinoline, isoquinoline, indoline, tetrahydroquinoline,

tetrahydroisoquinoline, 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-1,4-benzoxazine, dihydroquinoline, and dihydroisoquinoline.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 9, wherein the ~~ring represented by D ring, in the above formula (I)~~ together with the groups represented by  $R^6$  to  $R^9$  to be bonded thereto, form a group ~~selected from~~ represented by the following formulae:

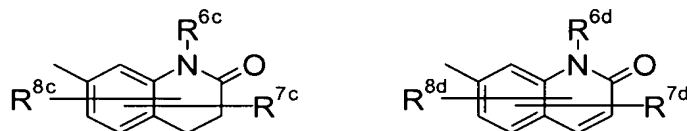


wherein the symbols have the following meanings:

$R^{6a}$  and  $R^{6b}$ : the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl, or a halogen-substituted lower alkyl, and

$R^{7a}$ ,  $R^{8a}$ ,  $R^{7b}$ , and  $R^{8b}$ : the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl, or a halogen-substituted lower alkyl.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 9, wherein the ~~ring represented by D ring, in the above formula (I)~~ together with the groups represented by  $R^6$  to  $R^9$  to be bonded thereto, form a group ~~selected from~~ represented by the following formulae:



wherein the symbols have the following meanings:



R<sup>6c</sup> and R<sup>6d</sup>: the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl, or a halogen-substituted lower alkyl, and

R<sup>7c</sup>, R<sup>8c</sup>, R<sup>7d</sup>, and R<sup>8d</sup>: the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl, or a halogen-substituted lower alkyl.

Claim 14 (Canceled):

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a benzamide derivative represented by ~~the general~~ formula (I) according to claim 1 or a salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 16–18 (Canceled):

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method for ~~preventing or~~ treating pain, which comprises administering ~~[[an]]~~ a therapeutically effective amount of a benzamide derivative represented by ~~the general~~ formula (I) according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, to a ~~mammal~~ patient in need thereof.

Claim 20 (Canceled):

Claim 21 (New): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is 2-[(2,5-dimethylpyrrolidin-1-yl)methyl]-N-(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-7-yl)biphenyl-4-carboxamide.

Claim 22 (New): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is *N*-(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-7-yl)-2-[(2-methylpyrrolidin-1-yl)methyl]biphenyl-4-carboxamide.

Claim 23 (New): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is 2-{[ethyl(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)amino]methyl}-*N*-(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-7-yl)biphenyl-4-carboxamide.

Claim 24 (New): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is *N*-(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-7-yl)-3-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)-4-(2-thienyl)benzamide.

Claim 25 (New): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is 2-{[ethyl(tetrahydro-2*H*-thiopyran-4-yl)amino]methyl}-*N*-(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-7-yl)biphenyl-4-carboxamide.

Claim 26 (New): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is *N,N*-diethyl-4-[(4-{[(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-7-yl)amino]carbonyl}biphenyl-2-yl)methyl]morpholine-3-carboxamide.

Claim 27 (New): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is N-[(2R)-2-methyl-3-oxo-3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-6-yl]-2-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)biphenyl-4-carboxamide.

Claim 28 (New): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is *N*-(2,4-dimethyl-3-oxo-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-1,4-benzoxazin-6-yl)-2-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)biphenyl-4-carboxamide.